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PATENT APPLICATION

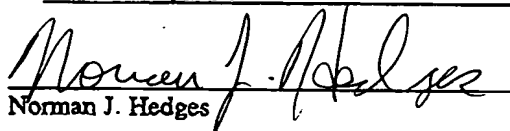
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 3679
Atty. Docket: 9513-0022
Applicants: Pelfrey et al.
Invention: PNEUMATIC COUPLING
Serial No.: 10/076,256
Filed: February 13, 2002
Examiner: Bochna, David

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d).

on March 15, 2004


Norman J. Hedges

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.131

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Rick D. Pelfrey, hereby declare that:

1. I am a co-inventor of at one of the claims of the above-identified application.
2. Prior to January 22, 2001, the invention of at least currently pending independent claims 7, 11, 16, and 36 (see Exhibit A) was conceived as documented by the drawing of Exhibit B dated November 6, 2000.
3. From prior to January 22, 2001 until February 13, 2001, diligent work was being done toward reduction to practice of the invention including, but not limited to, refinement of the invention; feasibility study; and patent application consultation, preparation, review, and submission resulting in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/268,308, filed February 13, 2001.

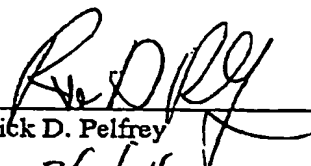
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4. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Rick D. Pelfrey
3/12/04
Date

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EXHIBIT A

7. A pneumatic coupling configured to couple a plurality of pneumatic lines, the pneumatic coupling comprising

a first housing adapted to receive a first pneumatic line of the plurality of pneumatic lines, and

a second housing adapted to receive a second pneumatic line of the plurality of pneumatic lines, the second housing being movable relative to the first housing between a first position coupled to the first housing and a second position coupled to the first housing, when the second housing is in the first position, the first and second pneumatic lines are in sealed fluid communication permitting air to flow therebetween, when the second housing is in the second position, the first and second pneumatic lines are unsealed permitting air from the first pneumatic line to flow externally of the first and second pneumatic lines.

11. A pneumatic device comprising

a first pneumatic component configured to receive pressurized air,

a second pneumatic component configured to receive pressurized air,

and

a pneumatic coupling configured to couple the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component, the pneumatic coupling being configured to move from a first position with the first and second components fluidly coupled to permit the flow of pressurized air from the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component and a second position with the first and second pneumatic components fluidly uncoupled to permit the flow of pressurized air from the first pneumatic component to a location external of the first and second pneumatic components, the second pneumatic component being restrained from moving beyond a predetermined distance from the first pneumatic component when the pneumatic coupling is in the second position.

16. A pneumatic device comprising

a first pneumatic component configured to receive pressurized air,

a second pneumatic component configured to receive pressured air,

and

a two-stage pneumatic coupling configured to move between a first coupled position, a second coupled position, and a third uncoupled position, the first and second pneumatic components being coupled together and in sealed fluid communication when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the first coupled

EXHIBIT A

position, the first and second pneumatic components being coupled together and unsealed when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the second coupled position, the first and second pneumatic components being uncoupled when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the uncoupled position.

36. A method of coupling and uncoupling first and second pneumatic components using a pneumatic coupling, the method comprising the steps of

coupling the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component using the pneumatic coupling so that the first and second pneumatic components are in sealed fluid communication,

unsealing the first pneumatic component from the second pneumatic component by permitting movement of the second pneumatic component relative to the first pneumatic component,

restraining movement of the second pneumatic component beyond a predetermined location relative to the first pneumatic component with the pneumatic coupling after the unsealing step, and
uncoupling the first pneumatic component from the second pneumatic component so that the movement of the second pneumatic component is no longer restrained by the pneumatic coupling.

[illegible]